

REMARKS

The indication that claims 3-9 have been allowed and that claim 2 includes patentable subject matter is acknowledged with thanks. In reliance thereon, the subject matter of claim 2 has been added to claim 10 to place claim 10 in condition for allowance.

When amending claim 10, the reference to the table has been deleted as it is believed that this is not pertinent to the subject matter of claim 2 that has been added to claim 10.

Consideration and allowance of amended claim 10 are respectfully requested because the applied references do not disclose the elements of claim 2 that are indicated to be allowable and that have been added to claim 10.

Claim 10 was rejected as anticipated by TAKEDA et al. 6,577,646. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested for the reason set forth above.

Claim 11 was rejected as unpatentable over TAKEDA et al. in view of OTT et al. 6,560,198. Claim 11 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 12. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested for the reason set forth below.

Claim 12 was rejected as unpatentable over TAKEDA et al. in view of OTT et al. and CHEN et al. 6,658,482. CHEN et al. was filed in the U.S. on December 7, 1999. The priority Japanese application 11-300438 for the present application was filed

October 22, 1999, which is earlier than the U.S. filing date of CHEN et al. A verified English translation of the priority application has been made of record to perfect the claim to priority. Since the claim to priority has been perfected and since the filing date of the priority application precedes the U.S. filing date of CHEN et al., this reference is no longer available as prior art. Since the reference is not available as prior art, the rejection based on this reference should be withdrawn. Accordingly, claim 12 includes patentable subject matter. Since the subject matter of claim 12 has been added to claim 11, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 11 are respectfully requested.

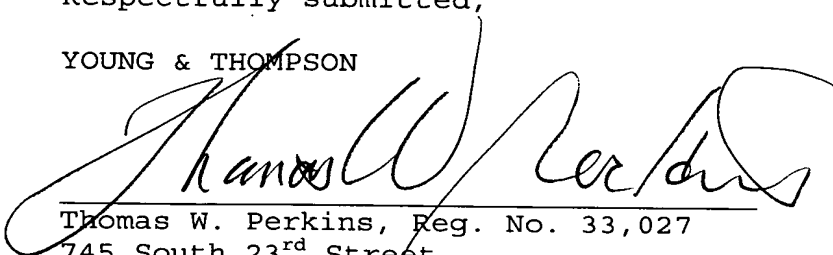
Claims 2 and 12 have been canceled to place the application in condition for allowance.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



Thomas W. Perkins, Reg. No. 33,027
745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

TWP/lrs

APPENDIX:

The Appendix includes the following item:

- a verified English translation of the priority Japanese application 11-300438 filed October 22, 1999